

CRUZ MISSILE



Senator Ted Cruz (R-Texas) speaks at the Values Voter Summit in Washington, DC. Cruz plans to announce Monday, March 23, 2015, that he is running for president. (Doug Mills/The New York Times)

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Republican Ted Cruz To Announce Presidential Bid



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7 siblings killed in New York fire to be buried in Israel



Mourners gather outside of Shomrei Hadas Chapels, more than could fit inside, before a funeral service for the seven young siblings of an Orthodox Jewish family killed early Saturday morning in a Brooklyn borough house fire, in New York, March 22, 2015. A malfunctioning hot plate started the fire, from which the mother and one 15-year-old daughter escaped. Both are in critical condition.

(Chang W. Lee/The New York Times)

M. BALSAMO
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Seven siblings who died in a New York City house fire will be buried in Israel.

The children, ages 5 to 16, died early Saturday when flames engulfed the Sassoon family home in the Midwood neighborhood of Brooklyn. Investigators believe a hot plate left on a kitchen counter set off the fire that trapped the children and badly injured their mother and another sibling.

Both the mother and the daughter — Gayle Sassoon and 14-year-old Siporah Sassoon — remained in critical condition Sunday morning.

Brooklyn Assemblyman Dov Hikind said the children's remains will be placed aboard an El Al flight to Tel Aviv after Sunday afternoon funeral services.

"I call this not a tragedy

but an absolute disaster," said Hikind, who represents the Brooklyn neighborhood of Midwood where the fire broke out early Saturday.

The blaze killed three girls and four boys — all members of the neighborhood's tightknit community of ultra-Orthodox Jews.

"Everyone's in utter shock," Hikind said.

The hot plate was left on for the Sabbath, from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday. Many religious Jews refrain from working in all forms including turning on appliances during the Sabbath; some leave them running instead.

The hot plate apparently malfunctioned, setting off the blaze that sent flames up the stairs, trapping the children in their second-floor bedrooms as they slept, investigators said.

Authorities identified the victims as girls Eliane, 16;

Rivkah, 11; and Sara, 6; and boys David, 12; Yeshua, 10; Moshe, 8; and Yaakob, 5.

Authorities said their father was at a nearby conference at the time of the fire.

"They were beautiful little children," said a tearful

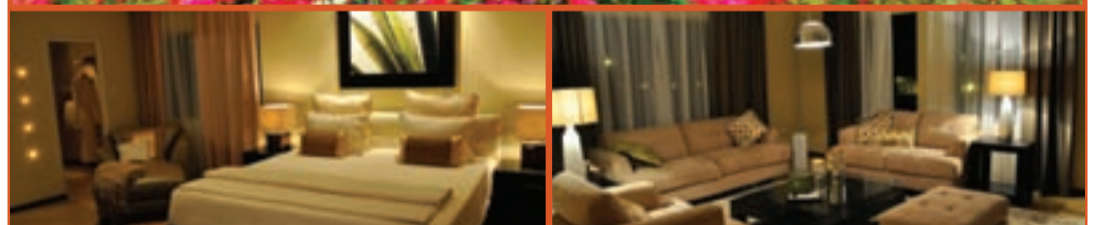
neighbor, Rose Insel, remembering how she rewarded the kids with lollipops after they voluntarily shoveled her walk. "It's unbelievable. It doesn't seem possible."

Fire Commissioner Daniel

Nigro called it the city's worst fatal fire in recent memory and Mayor Bill de Blasio, after touring the charred home, called the blaze a tragedy for the family, the community and the city. □



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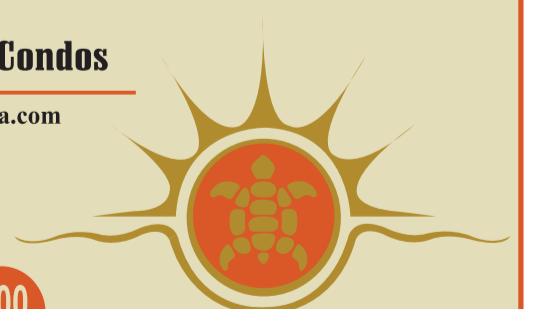
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Republican Ted Cruz to announce presidential bid

STEVEN R. HURST
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hard-right Republican Texas Sen. Ted Cruz plans to announce on Monday that he will run to become the party's 2016 presidential candidate, making him the first White House hopeful to officially enter the race.

As first out of the starting gate, Cruz apparently hopes to get the jump on several top Republicans

who are expected to enter the race in the coming weeks: former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and two Senate colleagues, Kentucky's Rand Paul and Florida's Marco Rubio.

Cruz, 44, has considerable appeal among the Republican Party's base of conservative voters. After his election to the Senate in 2012, the former Texas solicitor general quickly

established himself as an uncompromising conservative willing to take on Democrats and Republicans alike. Criticized by members of his own party at times, he won praise from ultraconservative tea party activists for leading the Republican push to shut down the federal government during an unsuccessful bid to block funding for President Barack Obama's health care law.



Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas speaks during the CPAC Conference in National Harbor, Md. Cruz plans to announce Monday, March 23, 2015, that he is running for president.

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

That effort failed and cost Republicans support among the electorate in the short-term, but did not damage the party in the 2014 election when it expanded its majority in the House of Representatives and regained control of the Senate.

Cruz is set to release a book this summer that he said would reflect themes of his White House campaign.

In a recent Associated Press interview, he said he wants to counter the "caricatures" of the right as "stupid," "evil" or "crazy."

"The image created in the mainstream media does not comply with the facts," he said.

The son of an American mother and Cuban-born father, Cruz would be the nation's first Hispanic president. Cruz was born in Canada, but two lawyers who represented presidents from both parties at the Supreme Court recently wrote in the Harvard Law Review that Cruz meets the constitutional requirement to run.

Cruz has hinted openly at his intentions to seek the White House for months, and his intention to jump into the race was confirmed by a strategist for the first-term Republican

senator, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity so as not to preclude the formal announcement.

Cruz is scheduled to give the convocation at Liberty University in Virginia on Monday. By selecting the school, a private Christian college founded by fundamentalist preacher Jerry Falwell, as the site for his announcement, Cruz is also sending a clear signal to conservative Republican primary voters about his candidacy and his political positioning heading into the race. He has assiduously courted evangelicals and other social conservatives as part of an attempt to build a coalition of conservatives frustrated with Republican Party elders in Washington.

Cruz has left little doubt about his 2016 intentions in recent weeks. He made his first trip to New Hampshire earlier this month to help lay the groundwork for a presidential campaign, having already begun to ramp up outreach to party activists and donors. Tiny New Hampshire holds the first presidential primary vote and a victory there can give a candidate a strong push toward the party nomination. □



US pullout from Afghanistan hinged to developing forces

DEB RIECHMANN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The pace of U.S. troop withdrawals from Afghanistan will headline Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's visit to Washington, yet America's exit from the war remains tightly hinged to the abilities of the Afghan forces that face a tough fight against insurgents this spring. President Barack Obama has promised to end the longest U.S. war — it began in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks — and get the remaining troops out of Afghanistan by the end of his presidency. Deficiencies in the Afghan security forces, heavy casualties in the ranks of the army and police, a fragile new government and fears that Islamic State fighters could gain a foothold in Afghanistan have combined to persuade Obama to slow the withdrawal.

Instead of trimming the current U.S. force of 9,800 to 5,500 by the end of the year, U.S. military officials say the administration now might keep many of them there well into 2016. Obama had said that after that, the U.S. would only maintain an embassy-based security force in Kabul of perhaps 1,000 troops. But on Friday, Jeff Eggers of the White House's National Security Council said that too could be changed. He said the post-2016 plan will be considered on an ongoing basis. Officials later said that Eggers was alluding to discussions about the breadth of the U.S. relationship with Afghanistan after 2016, and that the size of the U.S. footprint and the troop levels in Afghanistan that Obama called for in May would not change. At stake is the U.S. taxpayers' more than \$60 billion investment — so far — in



U.S. Secretary of Defense Ash Carter, left, walks with U.S. Army Gen. John Campbell upon arrival at Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan. The pace of U.S. troop withdrawals from Afghanistan will headline Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's visit to Washington.

(AP Photo/Jonathan Ernst, Pool)

the Afghan forces. The 327,000-member force performs much better than before, but still needs work. While praising their ability to operate mostly independently and secure the nation during a protracted election, U.S. military officials say the Afghan forces still suffer from a host of

problems: attrition, drug abuse, desertions, illiteracy, poor record-keeping, a lack of management and logistical skills, intelligence, a shortage of top-notch leaders and less-than-optimal cooperation between policemen and soldiers. They also are suffering massive casualties as they ramp

up operations.

More than 1,300 members of the Afghan army were killed in action and another 6,200 were wounded in action between October 2013 and September 2014, according to a report this month from the special inspector general for Afghan reconstruction. Casualties in the ranks of policemen are even higher. In nearly 14 years of fighting, at least 2,200 U.S. military service men and women have been killed.

"They are now leading the fight, but they still need our support, and that support is critical to enabling them to hold the key cities ... and to hold off a still bubbling insurgency, particularly in the rural areas," Michele Flournoy, former undersecretary of defense for policy, said last week at an event organized by the Alliance in Support of the Afghan People. □



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Sheriff: Airport attacker had machete, Molotov cocktails

KEVIN MCGILL
Associated Press

KENNER, Louisiana (AP) — A machete-wielding attacker who died hours after being shot by a sheriff's deputy who stopped his rampage at New Orleans' international airport had a bag loaded with Molotov cocktails, authorities say. Richard White, 63, had been shot Friday night as he chased an unarmed Transportation Security Administration agent through a concourse full of frightened travelers — and in the direction of a sheriff's deputy, who drew her gun and fired three times. White died Saturday afternoon. Sheriff Newell Normand said investigators discovered White had been carrying a bag loaded with Molotov cocktails, but had

dropped it in the airport. The bag contained six Mason jars with cloth wicks soaked in gasoline and that residue from smoke bombs also was found near White's body, Normand added. "Fortunately, he didn't seriously injure anybody," said Normand, speaking Saturday at a news conference at the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport. He is sheriff of Jefferson Parish, a suburban New Orleans district where the airport is located. Normand said the situation could have been much worse. "You know, sometimes, the saying: You'd rather be lucky than good. I think we were both last night to the nth degree," he said. "I think we did a lot of things

right and positive and caused certain things to happen, but by the same token — one second here, one second there — it could have been a much different outcome." Investigators are trying to determine the motivations of the man and the man's family has been cooperating with the investigation, the sheriff said. When discussing the attack, Normand said at the news conference that there was a "mental health component" but didn't elaborate on any specifics. Authorities also found smoke bombs and tanks of acetylene, Freon and oxygen in the trunk of his car, Normand said, but investigators didn't know what, if anything, White intended to do with the materials.



Public officials applaud TSA agent Carol Richel who suffered a gunshot wound to the arm at Louis Armstrong International Airport on Saturday, March 21, 2015, in Kenner, La. Authorities said the machete-wielding man who was shot at New Orleans' international airport after trying to attack passengers and security agents was carrying explosives at the time.

(AP Photo/Michael DeMocker)

Normand said White is believed to be a former taxi driver, but added that investigators are still examin-

ing a variety of sources and databases to obtain his employment and criminal history. □

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Florida man who faked death arrested in North Carolina

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — A Jacksonville businessman reported dead two years ago in Venezuela was arrested in North Carolina on alleged fraud charges Saturday after his life insurance companies filed a lawsuit alleging he was alive and they shouldn't be making payments. Details of the charges against 62-year-old Jose Lantigua are unclear. But Saturday's arrest ends two years of speculation about whether the former furniture store owner had faked an illness in 2013 while vacationing in Venezuela, leaving his business millions of dollars in debt. His life insurance companies thought they were being swindled and launched an investigation saying the businessman was not dead after two lenders filed claims. The lawsuits by Hartford Life and Annuity

Life Insurance Co. also alleged a worker was bribed to falsify documents stating the businessman's body was cremated. They also claim Lantigua fraudulently assigned benefits claims to a local creditor before he disappeared. The South Florida Business Journal reports Lantigua's son accused the insurance company of falsifying its investigation into his father's death, accusing the company of lying about the Venezuelan government revoking his father's death certificate. The newspaper reported that the insurance company admitted a Venezuelan lawyer did alter documents to make it seem like the Venezuelan government nullified the death certificate. A judge ruled the papers were faked, but could not determine who faked them. □

Boston Yeti selling swag to benefit animals in need



An anonymous creature known as The Boston Yeti poses in front of the Boston logo at City Hall in Boston. The abominable snowman gained a huge following on social media during Boston's epic winter by running around the city in costume and stopping to help dig out stranded drivers.

(AP Photo/Eric Gulliver)

WILLIAM J. KOLE
Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — The Boston Yeti is using its newfound notoriety to help some fellow furry friends.

The abominable snowman gained a huge following on social media during Boston's epic winter by running around the city in costume and stopping to help dig

out stranded drivers. Now the unidentified prankster is selling Yeti swag to raise money for the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

All of the proceeds from the sales of stickers, buttons and bookmarks will benefit the MSPCA's Angell Animal Medical Center in Boston. The Yeti told The Associat-

ed Press in an email: "I can think of no better way to spin ones popularity than for the benefit of animals in need."

"From the beginning of this unprecedented winter, I've been determined to channel the positive energy that surrounds me toward an important and worthwhile cause," the Yeti said.

The swag, illustrated with quirky line drawings of the Yeti by Rhode Island-based artist Jeff Smith, is being sold through an Etsy store appropriately dubbed Boston Yetis: <https://www.etsy.com/shop/BostonYetis>.

MSPCA spokesman Rob Halpin says the animal welfare organization is grateful for the help.

"This is one of those moments when a social media

flash in the pan has longer and more valuable legs than anyone ever thought that it could," Halpin said.

"Blizzard after blizzard, the Yeti was a constant source of amusement and mystery for everybody just to get through the winter," he said.

"It's wonderful that the Yeti would surface in the spring to aid his fellow four-legged friends who are in shelters." Could the furry phantom itself be at risk of being picked up as a stray?

"Probably not, because we've shared several emails and he appears to have opposable thumbs," Halpin said.

"But if he shows up here, we'll scan him for a microchip and get him home." □

Dogs rescued from Asian meat farms brought to California

KRISTIN J. BENDER

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Dozens of dogs rescued from a South Korean meat farm were in rough shape both physical and mentally when they arrived in Northern California this week to start new lives.

Fifty-seven dogs and puppies were rescued from a dog meat farm by Humane Society International and Change for Animals Foundation in South Korea. The dogs range from beagles, poodles, and Korean Jindos to large Tosas who have spent their entire lives in small, filthy, crowded cages exposed on the farm, waiting to be killed — often electrocuted — for their meat that is often made into stew or used in dietary supplements overseas. South Korea — the only known Asian country to have a farming industry that raises dogs solely for meat — is now the focus of an international effort by animal-rights groups to end the business.

"They've been starved of love their whole lives, living in fear and deprivation. As soon as we opened their cage doors and they realized we weren't going to harm them, they wagged their tails and licked our faces. I felt very privileged to give these dogs the first ever cuddle and kiss of their lives," Humane Society International Asian campaign manager Lola Webber said.

The farmer involved had bred dogs for meat for 20 years and was facing criticism from family members for his participation in the trade that sees about 2 million dogs consumed in South Korea annually, said Adam Parascandola, the group's director of animal protection and crisis response. "There's been some surveys conducted among dog meat farmers that showed that given some incentive to go into another line of work they would chose to do so," Parascandola said. □

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Of Global Concern:

US first lady urges Cambodian students to seek more freedoms

JOCELYN GECKER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON/SIEM REAP, Cambodia (AP) —

Michelle Obama urged Cambodian students to finish their education and speak up to demand greater freedoms and more equality on a landmark visit to a South-east Asian country that has been ruled by an authoritarian strongman for decades.

The U.S. first lady's comments on Saturday did not explicitly criticize Cambodia's human rights record or its government under Prime Minister Hun Sen. But she sent a pointed message, and one that she delivered seated beside Hun Sen's wife, Bun Rany.

Human rights groups praised the remarks as a rare foray into foreign af-



U.S. first lady Michelle Obama, center, hugs students at a local high school that she visited with Bun Rany, the first lady of Cambodia, second right, on the outskirts of Siem Reap, Cambodia. Mrs. Obama is in Cambodia to promote the education initiative "Let Girls Learn," which was launched to lift barriers that block more than 62 million girls around the world from attending school. (AP Photo/Wong Maye-E)

fairs for a first lady.

"Even though Mrs. Obama didn't name names, it's more than we have heard in a long time from a first

lady on a foreign trip," said Phil Robertson, deputy Asia director of Human Rights Watch. "Now it's time for President Obama to state publicly what rights benchmarks he expects to see from Cambodia, and press Hun Sen to commit to it."

Mrs. Obama wrapped up a five-day trip to Asia Sunday to promote the U.S.-led education initiative "Let Girls Learn," which she and the president announced earlier this month. The community-based program, to

be run by the Peace Corps, is meant to help millions of girls in the developing world stay in school and overcome economic or cultural pressures that force many to drop out. "Let Girls Learn" is starting in 11 countries, including Cambodia. Mrs. Obama's visit follows a three-day trip to Japan, which is helping to fund the project. The trip gave the first lady, who is traveling without her husband, a chance to soak up some of Asia's rich culture. In Japan, she visited Buddhist and Shinto shrines, and in Cambodia she traveled to Siem Reap, home to the famed Angkor Wat temple complex.

At a high school outside of Siem Reap, Mrs. Obama greeted students with a traditional gesture of hands pressed together and a head bow. She walked the compound's dirt paths and then met with 10 girls who shared tales of rising early to feed their families and help with farming before heading off on long treks to school and studying late into the night. "You are role models to the world," said Mrs. Obama,

seated on a wooden school chair beside the students and Cambodia's first lady. Education brings empowerment, she added, and urged the teens to "finish your education and then follow your dreams."

"Use your voices to advocate for good things — whether it's more education, better health care, more freedoms, more equality," she said. "Not just here in Cambodia, not just here in Siem Reap, but in the world. I hope that you all will feel empowered to do that." As Mrs. Obama spoke, Bun Rany smiled and made no comment. However, she expressed Cambodia's "full support" for the education initiative, and said the government was giving priority to female students for state scholarships. Mrs. Obama's trip marks the first by a sitting American first lady to Cambodia. Barack Obama became the first U.S. president to visit Cambodia in 2012, and pressed Hun Sen in private on a variety of human rights and political issues during a meeting that White House officials described as tense. □

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US trains Iraqi forces as battle for Tikrit continues



A volunteer fighter with a Shiite militant group known as 'Jihad Brigades,' fires his weapon during clashes with Islamic State group militants, outside Tikrit, 80 miles north of Baghdad, Iraq. (AP Photo)

VIVIAN SALAMA
 QASSIM ZAHRA
 Associated Press

TAJI, Iraq (AP) — As the U.S. mission to Iraq expands, so do its efforts to arm and train the country's security forces to combat the Islamic State group, with large-scale operations continuing to recapture territory from the Sunni militants.

Hundreds of American advisers are working at the Camp Taji military base just north of Baghdad to train Iraqi forces on issues like weaponry and better coordination and integration of ground action with coalition airstrikes.

The goal, U.S. military officials say, is to teach the different divisions of the Iraqi military how to harmonize the operations of its various fighting units.

"This Iraqi commander ... has a company worth of infantry soldiers, he's got some armor assets from the Iraqi army, he's got two helicopters that are flying ... and then he's got engineers and (explosive ordnance disposal)," said Maj. Russell Wagner, one of the U.S. officers conducting training.

They "are all out here working in unison in order to get him through this obstacle

and into the town that lies beyond," Wagner said.

In November, President Barack Obama authorized the deployment of up to 1,500 more American troops to bolster Iraqi forces, which could more than double the total of U.S. forces to 3,100. The boost in advisers and trainers complements the air campaign launched by the U.S. in August 2014.

The Iraqi military has struggled to recover from its collapse in June when the Islamic State group captured country's second-largest city, Mosul, and swept over much of northern Iraq. In the face of the advance, commanders disappeared. Pleas for more ammunition went unanswered. In some cases, soldiers stripped off their uniforms and ran.

Twelve U.S. advisory teams had been operating in Iraq since August, stationed in joint operations centers in Baghdad and Irbil, as well as in some of the outer provinces, including volatile Anbar province, which has been under partial control of the militant group since early 2014.

The Iraqi military — backed by at least 20,000 Shiite militiamen — is fighting to regain control of Saddam

Hussein's hometown of Tikrit, one of several predominantly Sunni towns to fall to the militants last year. It's one of the first major operations in which the U.S.-led coalition is not taking part, with U.S. officials saying they weren't ask to participate. Iranian advisers have played a prominent role on the front lines of Iraq's Salahuddin province. If Iraqi forces are unable to push IS back and recover

lost territory, Obama would be faced with a choice of accepting failure in Iraq or committing U.S. combat troops — something both U.S. and Iraqi officials have spoken firmly against.

"The soldiers now are absolutely eager to learn, their leaders eager to learn," said Lt. Col. John Schwemmer of the 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry. "They are eager to get on the training lanes that we have here,

to learn the skill they need to go against the enemy." At the Salahuddin command center at Tikrit University, ambulances come and go with a handful of Iraqi soldiers, injured in clashes with the Islamic State group. Operations to recapture Tikrit have been on hold for nearly a week, with Iraqi officials saying they're trying to minimize casualties by not rushing the final assault. □



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Shiite rebel leader vows to fight rivals in Yemen's south

AHMED AL-HAJ
Associated Press

ADEN, Yemen (AP) — Yemen's Shiite rebel leader escalated his attack Sunday against the country's embattled president, vowing to send fighters to the south where Abed-Rabbo Mansour Hadi has taken refuge. The fiery speech came hours after his militia seized the third-largest city of Taiz, an important station in its advance. Abdel-Malik al-Houthi, who is backed by supporters of former President Ali Abdullah Saleh, said the mobilization is aimed at fighting al-Qaida and other militant groups, as well as forces

loyal to Hadi who are in the south intending to further destabilize Yemen. In his one-hour speech on al-Masirah TV, al-Houthi called Hadi a "puppet" to international and regional powers who want to "import the Libyan model" to Yemen. He named the United States, Israel, Saudi Arabia and Qatar as conspirators against Yemen and other countries in the region. Libya is torn by warring militias with rival parliaments on either end of the country claiming legitimacy and radicals from the Islamic State group taking root. Yemen's turmoil has deepened since the Shiite



Members of a militia group loyal to Yemen's President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, known as the Popular Committees, chew qat, Yemen's favorite drug, as they sit next to their tank in Aden, Yemen. Yemen's Shiite rebels issued a call to arms to battle forces loyal to the embattled President Hadi, as U.S. troops evacuated a southern air base over al-Qaida militants seizing a nearby city, authorities said.

(AP Photo/Hamza Hendawi)

rebel group, known as the Houthis, seized Sanaa in September, putting Hadi under house arrest and eventually dissolving the country's parliament. They now control at least nine of the country's 21 provinces. Hadi, who is backed by the international community, fled to Aden — the country's second most important city and economic hub — declaring it a de-

facto capital earlier this month.

The U.N.'s special envoy for Yemen, Jamal Benomar, warned an emergency meeting of the Security Council on Sunday that events were pushing the country "to the edge of civil war." Benomar, appearing in a video briefing from Qatar, said "it would be an illusion" to think the Houthis could take control

of the entire country, and he urged all parties to resolve the conflict peacefully. The escalation Sunday began when forces loyal to Saleh took over Taiz and its international airport. Security officials allied with Hadi said the rebel forces were already mobilizing tanks and fighters on the road from Taiz to neighboring Lahj province, apparently on their way to Aden.

"The decision (to mobilize) aims to confront the criminal forces, al-Qaida, and its partners and sisters, and all those who want to take cover in regions or using political pretexts," al-Houthi said. He accused Hadi of partnering with militant groups to destabilize Yemen. Security officials said one person was killed and four wounded when rebel fighters opened fire on protesting crowds in Taiz against their advance in the city, which was known as a hotbed for protests against Saleh in the beginning of 2011 that forced him to step down. □

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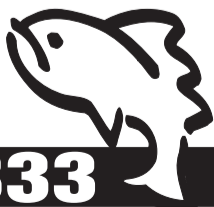


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Tunisia:

Hunt on for 3rd man in museum attack

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) — A third attacker in the deadly assault on the Bardo museum is on the run, Tunisia's president said Sunday, declaring his country at war with the extremists who killed 21 people at one of North Africa's most revered cultural institutions.

President Beji Caid Essebsi said the attack involved "three aggressors" and the third man escaped. He was speaking live with French network iTele from inside

the museum, its elaborate tilework visible behind him. Tunisia's Interior Ministry released security camera footage of Wednesday's attack showing two gunmen walking through the museum, carrying assault rifles and bags. At one point they encounter a third man with a backpack walking down a flight of stairs. They briefly acknowledge each other before walking in opposite directions.

Police responding to the attack shot and killed the two gunmen. They were identified as Tunisians in their 20s who had trained in Libya.

Essebsi said the extremists who have recruited about 3,000 Tunisians to fight in Iraq and Syria have no credible connection to Islamic belief. He said his country was at war with them. "When war is brought upon us, we will wage war," he said. □



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Vote blunts rise of France's far-right National Front

LORI HINNANT
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — France's governing Socialists never expected to do well in Sunday's first-round elections, and their strategy worked just as planned: Their conservative rivals took first place.

Before the elections for 2,000 local councils, the Socialists urged people to vote, hoping that turnout would blunt the rise of Marine Le Pen's far right National Front, even if it meant Nicolas Sarkozy's conservative UMP would be the victor.

Initial projections gave the UMP party 31 percent of the vote compared with 24.5 percent for the National Front and 19.7 percent for the Socialists and their allies. Turnout was 51 percent, compared with about 45 percent in the same elections in 2011.

With little air of a man in third place, Prime Minister Manuel Valls was the first to praise the far right party's defeat.

"This evening, the extreme right, even it is too high, is not at the forefront of French politics," Valls said. "When we mobilize the French, it works."

Le Pen was nowhere on the ballots themselves, but



French far-right leader and National Front Party, Marine Le Pen, exits the polling station as she goes to vote for the first round of local elections, Sunday, March 22, 2015, in Henin-Beaumont, northern France.
(AP Photo/Michel Spingler)

her National Front is trying to build a grassroots army of local officials to buttress her presidential ambitions

in 2017. France's council elections are in two rounds, so victory Sunday determines which

candidates can contest a second vote March 29.

The Socialists, which currently control the majority of the councils, are deeply unpopular after the government's failure to turn around France's economy. Both they and the UMP are torn by infighting, leaving the National Front something of an open field for the first round.

But both the Socialists and UMP, normally rivals, have issued dire warnings about France's future under a resurgent National Front, whose opposition to immigration, radical Islam, and the European Union has helped transform the party from a pariah under Le

Pen's father.

Jockeying ahead of the second round started moments after the first-round results came in.

Valls essentially called for voters to choose anyone running against a National Front candidate.

Sarkozy, who like Le Pen is eyeing the 2017 presidential race for a comeback, told supporters to abstain in the second round if a UMP candidate wasn't running.

And Le Pen demanded Valls' resignation for "trying to lead a campaign against the people, a filthy and violent campaign that stigmatized millions of French voters." □

EU far-right politicians in Russia to support Putin

IRINA TITOVA
Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP) — Nationalist supporters of Russian President Vladimir Putin brought together controversial far-right politicians from across Europe on Sunday in an effort to demonstrate international support for Russia and weaken European Union commitment to sanctions imposed on Russia over its role in Ukraine.

Putin's critics pointed to the irony of St. Petersburg,

his hometown, welcoming neo-Nazis as Russia prepares to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany in World War II.

The meeting drew about 40 protesters, who held signs denouncing fascism, and about eight of them were detained by police. Among the more prominent Europeans at the gathering was Nick Griffin, the expelled former leader of the anti-immigrant Brit-

ish National Party, who accused the U.S. of aggravating the confrontation in Ukraine, where more than 6,000 people have been killed in fighting between government troops and Russia-backed separatists. "The people running the U.S. and their puppets in the European Union are doing everything they can, whether deliberately or just by stupidity, to drag us into a terrible war," Griffin said.

He spoke out against

the EU sanctions, as did Udo Voigt, a senior figure in Germany's neo-Nazi fringe National Democratic Party, who was among several members of the European Parliament who attended the St. Petersburg gathering. Griffin lost his seat in the EU body last year. Roberto Fiore, leader of Italy's far-right party Forza Nuova, and members of the neo-Nazi Greek party Golden Dawn also were among the approximately 200 participants. □

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US anti-drugs work in Colombia uses cancer-linked herbicide

J. GOODMAN
Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—

New labeling on the world's most popular weed killer as a likely cause of cancer is raising more questions for an aerial spraying program in Colombia that underpins U.S.-financed efforts to wipe out cocaine crops.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer, a French-based research arm of the World Health Organization, on Thursday reclassified the herbicide glyphosate as a carcinogen that poses a greater potential danger to industrial users than homeowners. The agency cited what it called convincing evidence that the herbicide produces cancer in lab animals and more limited findings that it causes non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in humans.

The glyphosate-based herbicide Roundup is a mainstay of industrial agriculture worldwide, and it's a preferred weapon for killing Colombian cocaine harvests. More than 4 million acres of land have been sprayed over the past two decades to kill coca plants, whose leaves produce cocaine.

The fumigation program, which is partly carried out

by American contractors, long has provoked hostility from Colombia's left, which likens it to the U.S. military's use of the Agent Orange herbicide during the Vietnam War. Leftist rebels, currently in negotiations with the government to end a half-century conflict, are demanding an end to the spraying as part of any deal.

Daniel Mejia, a Bogota-based economist who is chairman of an expert panel advising the Colombian government on its drug strategy, said the report is by far the most authoritative and could end up burying the fumigation program.

"Nobody can accuse the WHO of being ideologically biased," Mejia said, noting that questions already had been raised about the effectiveness of the spraying strategy and its potential health risks.

Mejia's own research published last year found higher rates of skin problems and miscarriages in districts targeted by herbicides. It was based on a study of medical records from 2003 to 2007.

Colombia's ombudsman office said it would seek suspension of the spraying program if the WHO results

prove convincing. But U.S. and Colombian government officials argue that cocaine does more health damage than aerial spraying.

Manufacturers of glyphosate-based products strongly rejected the WHO ruling. They cited a 2012 ruling by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that the

Critics of the program concede that the government has improved safety standards, such as by avoiding herbicide flights during strong winds, and installing



A plane sprays coca fields in San Miguel, on Colombia's southern border with Ecuador. The new labeling on Thursday, March 19, 2015, of the world's most-popular weed killer as a likely cause of cancer could jeopardize the future of an aerial spraying program in Colombia that is the cornerstone of the U.S.-backed war on drugs.

(AP Photo/William Martinez)

"Without a doubt this reopens the debate on fumigation and causes us to worry," Colombia Health Minister Alejandro Gaviria told The Associated Press on Saturday, referring to the WHO findings.

But Gaviria argued that the need to suppress cocaine harvests "transcends" other considerations.

Monsanto and other man-

herbicide was safe. Colombia already has scaled back use of aerial herbicides in favor of more labor-intensive manual eradication efforts, partly in response to criticism by farmers. Colombian officials say aerial spraying last year covered 55,000 hectares (136,000 acres), down from a 2006 peak of 172,000 hectares (425,000 acres).

GPS devices on fumigation aircraft that keep records of plane movements and help investigators to determine the validity of farmers' compensation claims. In 2013, Colombia agreed to pay Ecuador \$15 million to settle a lawsuit over economic and human damage linked to spraying along their common border. □

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At Costa Linda Beach Resort: Island Guests Celebrate Aruba's Anthem and Flag Day



EAGLE BEACH - Every year Costa Linda celebrates the day of Himno y Bandera (Aruba's Anthem and Flag Day) with a Champaign toast, snacks, music and fun festivities together with its members and guests. This year the group Tipico Poco Loco sang the National Anthem and Aruban folklore songs animating the ambience that was to the delight of all. Costa Linda members love Aruba, most of them have been coming back to Aruba for more than 30 years. Three generations are already coming year after year, and they really love Aruba and Costa Linda as their home away from home. □



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John and Mary Smith Honored by ATA at Marriott Ocean Club

PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice couple whom are loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba, at the Marriott Ocean Club, as Distinguished Visitors. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 consecutive years. The honorees were Mr. John and Mrs. Mary Smith from Holmdel, New Jersey. John and Mary are loyal members of the Marriott Ocean Club, and they love Aruba for the friendly people, climate, beaches, restaurants and Aruba feels like a second home to them. The certificate was presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mr. Erwin Noquera GM at the Marriott Ocean Club. □




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Sidebar changes Aruba's restaurant scene with its flavorful gourmet burgers

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Zforall, Sarasota, FL-USA
TripAdvisor - January 5th, 2015

Sidebar's signature burgers have been named The Sidebar, The Afterburner, The Goliath, The Texan, The Chaser, The Primal and The Italian Job and we are sure that everyone will be able to find a burger that calls out to them. The burgers come with brie cheese, prosciutto, Cheddar cheese, zucchini, sliced steak, Bourbon bbq sauce, dripping gravy and much more, depending on your order. The best thing is that these gourmet beauties cost less than \$ 15.--, so lunch or an evening out won't break the bank.

Feel love for Sidebar's burgers; they are bursting with taste— try them all and find your personal favorite. Come on down to Sidebar and rock your Wildest West with a fabulously tasty burger that packs a punch with its layers of flavor. And if you are not in a burger mood, then Sidebar has a wonderfully varied menu of all kinds of other options, ranging from vegetarian mushrooms and spinach to a zucchini cutlet to lovely salads, homemade soups, pastas and fish dishes.

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Picture: "THE TEXAN" GOURMET BURGER

Loyal Visitors Honored by Aruba Tourism Authority!



NOORD - Recently, Darline S. de Cuba had the great pleasure to honor a group of loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba as Distinguished Visitors and Emerald Ambassadors at their home away from home.

The honorees were Mr. Maxwell Cooperman of Manchester, New Jersey, Mr. Charles and Mrs. Annette Hotham of New Gloucester, Maine, Mr. Dennis and Mrs. Kathleen Leck and Mr. Matthew Leck, all three from Addison, Pennsylvania.

The symbolic honorary titles are presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, Transportation, Primary Sector and Culture Mr. O. Oduber as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba from 10-to-19 consecutive years (Distinguished Visitors) and 35+ consecutive years (Emerald Ambassador).

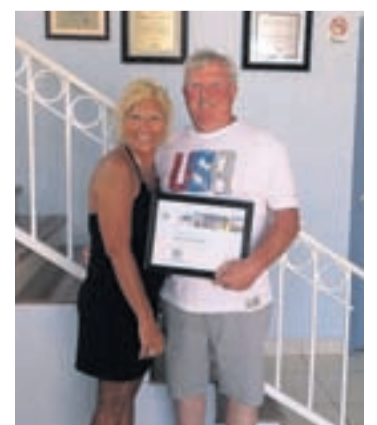
Darline S. de Cuba representing Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mis-



lady Fingal conducted the Ceremony at Caribbean Palm Village.

The top reasons for returning provided by the honorees are they consider Aruba to be the 'Happy Island,' the great weather and Friendly Aruban Hospitality.

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FONTANA FAST



Brad Keselowski wins at Auto Club Speedway

Brad Keselowski wins the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race in Fontana, Calif., Sunday, March 22, 2015.

Associated Press

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Matt Every wins Bay Hill for 2nd straight year

DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Matt Every had a tongue-in-cheek response when he heard Tiger Woods was not ready to play the Arnold Palmer Invitational this year. He said he told Woods, "Don't worry, man, I'll hold it down for you until you get back."

He did that and more. Every was dressed in a blue shirt, not red, but the moment sure looked familiar on the 18th green Sunday at Bay Hill. He made an 18-foot birdie putt for a 6-under 66, gave an abbreviated fist pump and held onto the trophy for one more year with a one-shot victory over Henrik Stenson.

"You watch tournaments on TV and guys make a 20-footer on the last and everybody goes nuts," Every said. "It's cool to close one out like that." Every rallied from a four-shot deficit last year for his first career victory, helped in part by Adam Scott's collapse in the final round. This one was even sweeter. Every came from three shots behind Sunday by matching the low score of the final round, and he was never seriously close to bogey on the back nine on his way to another handshake with Palmer and another trip to the Masters.

Needing a birdie to force a playoff, Stenson was wide left on a 20-foot putt at the 18th.

"It feels great," Every said



Matt Every acknowledges the gallery after sinking a putt for birdie to take the lead and win the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament in Orlando, Fla., Sunday, March 22, 2015.

Associated Press

about his return to Augusta National. "When Henrik missed that putt, that was the No. 1 thing on my mind: 'You're already in. Miss it — I need to get in.'"

Stenson was angry with being put on the clock on the 15th hole — the second time the final group was out of position — and closed with a 70 to extend a peculiar streak on the PGA Tour. It was the ninth straight tournament in which a 54-hole leader failed to win, and the Swede let this one get away.

He regained the lead with birdies on the 11th and 12th holes as Morgan Hoffmann began to fade, and Stenson had a one-shot

lead until a three-putt bogey from 45 feet on No. 15 and a three-putt par from 40 feet on the fringe at the par-5 16th.

"Really, problems kind of started on 15," Stenson said. "We got on the clock again, which when you're coming down the stretch you want to be able to have five extra seconds." He said he rushed his first putts on the 15th and 16th, and the three-putts were "really what cost me the tournament."

Every finished at 19-under 269 and became the first player since Payne Stewart in 1987 to win at Bay Hill with all four rounds in the 60s.

A year ago, Every missed

a 4-foot par putt on the 18th hole and had to wait a nervous 10 minutes to see if anyone could catch him. This time, he had no room for error. With a confident swing that held up all week, he drilled his drive down the left side of the fairway and hit his approach above the hole to set up his birdie.

He said he heard one man in the gallery saying between fake coughs, "Straight putt."

"I was like, 'This guys is a real (expletive) if he's lying, because it's a pretty important putt,'" Every said. "I looked over it pretty hard and I didn't see anything. It was a great putt to have under pressure, because I

literally had to get it going. It wasn't going to come up short. The last 3 feet I was begging for it to hang and I was like, 'Gosh, these are the one that always lip out. Be so cool to see this one dive in.' And it did."

Roberts, like Every, won his first two PGA Tour titles at Bay Hill. Matt Jones birdied three of his last four holes for a 68 to finish alone in third. Hoffmann had a two-shot lead after a birdie on the eighth hole, but it was a struggle the rest of the way. Stenson caught him on the 11th, and Hoffmann made bogey on his next two holes to fall three shots behind. He hit his tee shot out-of-bounds into a backyard on the 18th hole for a double bogey and a 71 to finish fourth.

Rory McIlroy, in his final tournament before he goes for his third straight major and the career Grand Slam at the Masters, closed with a 70 and tied for 11th. The world's No. 1 player had only one round in the 60s in his three events on the Florida swing.

"The main goal was to come here and try to win," said McIlroy, who played Bay Hill for the first time. "Couldn't do that. At least I got a couple of things out of this week, which is good." Zach Johnson holed a 5-iron from 207 yards on the par-5 16th for the second albatross in two days, after no one had made a 2 on a par 5 since Bay Hill began in 1979. □



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Djokovic beats Federer to win Indian Wells title

BETH HARRIS
AP Sports Writer

INDIAN WELLS, Calif. (AP) — Novak Djokovic defeated Roger Federer 6-3, 6-7 (5), 6-2 to win his fourth BNP Paribas Open on Sunday, tying him with Federer for the most titles in the desert after winning for the second straight year.

The world's top two men's players met for the 38th time, second-most among rivalries in the Open era. Federer leads the series 20-18 and had won three of their last four meetings going into the final.

But Federer made too many mistakes at crucial times, piling up 43 unforced errors to 35 for Djokovic. The Serb connected on 63 percent of his first serves, while Federer's serve let him down. He double-faulted to trail 4-2 in the third as Djokovic won the last four games of the match.

Federer's serve had carried him earlier in the tourna-

ment, when he faced just three break points in his first five matches and he saved two of those.

"I was trying to really focus a lot on my serve because it was very important because he returns so well off the second serve," Federer said. "He really plays everybody really tough when he returns off the second serve, and I think that's what also was tough today against him."

Djokovic also won in three sets last year. He and Federer have combined to win eight of the last 11 titles in the desert, and they became the first two players to reach the final in consecutive years since the tournament began 40 years ago.

Simona Halep beat Jelena Jankovic 2-6, 7-5, 6-4 in the women's final, giving the Romanian the biggest title of her career and a WTA Tour-leading third tournament victory of the year.

Djokovic and Halep earned \$900,400 each.

On his way to his 50th career ATP Tour title, Djokovic broke Federer once to take the first set. Federer rallied from a 3-1 deficit in the second set for a 5-all tie. They traded love service games to get into the tiebreaker, where Djokovic took a 5-3 lead.

Djokovic double-faulted twice in a row, setting up Federer's first break point. The Serb's backhand lob sailed long, allowing Federer to tie the match at a set apiece.

Federer then broke Djokovic for a 2-1 lead in a game that went to deuce five times before Djokovic netted a backhand. Federer was the clear favorite among the crowd of 16,988, although chanting Serbian fans at the top of the stadium made their presence known.

Federer held serve for a 2-all tie before Djokovic



Novak Djokovic, of Serbia, poses with the trophy after his win over Roger Federer, of Switzerland, in the final match at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament, Sunday, March 22, 2015, in Indian Wells, Calif.

Associated Press

won the final four games of the match.

"You miss a couple of shots which you shouldn't and then maybe I didn't serve as good as I should have, and then that's all Novak needs," Federer said. "Then he doesn't blink. It's pretty quick."

Halep improved to 6-0 in three-set matches this

year, smacking a cross-court forehand winner off Jankovic's weak volley return on match point. The world's third-ranked player advanced to the final when Serena Williams withdrew before their semifinal because of a sprained right knee.

Continued on page 22





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Brad Keselowski holds off Harvick late, wins at Fontana

By **GREG BEACHAM**
AP Sports Writer

FONTANA, Calif. (AP) - Brad Keselowski roared past Kurt Busch on the final lap and held off streaking Kevin Harvick to win at Fontana on Sunday, earning his first NASCAR victory of the season in a wild finish. Harvick fell just short of a three-race West Coast sweep, but finished sec-

ond to extend his remarkable streak of top-two Sprint Cup finishes to eight races dating to last season. Richard Petty holds the NASCAR record with 11 straight in 1975. Keselowski led only one lap in his Team Penske Ford, but capitalized on two late restarts to a green-white-checked finish. "I knew (Harvick) and

(Busch) had been the class of the weekend and deserved to win on speed," Keselowski said after his 17th career Sprint Cup victory. "Maybe we kind of stole one today." After getting four tires on the first late caution, Keselowski then slipped underneath Busch for the decisive pass, taking full advantage of the California



Brad Keselowski celebrates after winning the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race in Fontana, Calif., Sunday, March 22, 2015.
Associated Press

speedway's wide racing surface. He had never finished better than 18th on this track, which he called the best in NASCAR last week.

"Feel like today is the day we break our (Fontana) curse," Keselowski tweeted Sunday morning.

Busch, who won the pole, finished third in his second race back from suspension, clipping the wall on his final lap in a desperate attempt to catch up. He hasn't won since last March at Martinsville, but has two top-five finishes since his return from a three-race ban. Busch's girlfriend accused him of domestic assault, but he wasn't charged.

"We just got hung out on the yellows at the end," Busch said. "That last restart, I just didn't get the job done. Brad outmuscled us on four tires."

Busch and Harvick dueled down the stretch in front of a sellout crowd, two teammates eager to capitalize on their superior Stewart-Haas Racing Chevrolets.

They might have cruised to a 1-2 finish if not for another chapter in the thrilling races that have recently characterized the well-aged asphalt at Fontana.

"I hate that (Busch) wasn't able to hold on for the win there," Harvick said. "I would have loved to see those guys get their first win." Busch was holding off Harvick until a caution for debris with five laps to go, forcing a green-white-checked finish. Busch and Harvick took tires and went right up the middle on the restart and got in front of three drivers who didn't make pit stops.

Busch reclaimed the lead, but Kyle Larson then clipped the wall and sent his entire back bumper flying airborne, forcing another caution.

On the 202nd lap, Keselowski slid down the low side and seized the lead from Busch. Although Greg Biffle crashed behind them, NASCAR let the field keep racing, and Keselowski finished strong. □



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Degenkolb edges Kristoff to win Milan-San Remo classic



John Degenkolb of Germany reacts as he crosses the finish line to win the Milan-San Remo classic in San Remo, Italy, Sunday, March 22, 2015, edging defending champion Alexander Kristoff on a wet and rainy course for the biggest win of his career. Associated Press

MILAN (AP) — John Degenkolb sprinted to victory in the Milan-San Remo classic on Sunday, edging defending champion Alexander Kristoff on a wet and rainy course for the biggest win of his career. Degenkolb burst through the middle in the closing meters to win the 293-kilometer (182-mile) race in 6 hours, 46 minutes, 16 seconds after Kristoff had started his sprint too early. Kristoff was almost a bike length behind the German, with Michael Matthews third. "It was pure emotion," Degenkolb said. "At first I couldn't believe it. Fifty meters from the line I thought I wouldn't be able to beat Alex because he started the sprint really strongly. But I continued to believe in myself. There was still a difference in

power and speed but he ran out of gas just before the line and I managed to win." There were several crashes along the route, including

one on the final descent down the Poggio that took out three of the pre-race favorites in Philippe Gilbert, Zdenek Stybar and 2013 winner Gerald Ciolek.

Fabian Cancellara, who won the race in 2008, finished seventh. It was the first time in five years that the Swiss cyclist completed a monument classic without finishing on the podium. There was an early break of 11 riders who built a lead of 10 minutes. But they all dropped off one by one and there were several attacks on the Cipressa but none stuck. Geraint Thomas and Dan-

iel Oss forged clear after the Cipressa and had built a gap of 30 seconds with 11K (6.8 miles) remaining before the peloton started to reel them in on the approach to the Poggio. Thomas broke free on the ascent but was caught by Greg Van Avermaet shortly before the summit. He sped down the descent but couldn't shake off the others before the road flattened and prevent a mass finish. □



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SAT 2:10 | 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:25 | 11:50
SUN & HOL 2:10 | 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:25

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WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THURS 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:30
FRI 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:30 | 11:50
SAT 2:30 | 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:30 | 11:50
SUN & HOL 2:30 | 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:30

VINCE VAUGHN | DAVE FRANCO
UNFINISHED BUSINESS
MON-THURS 5:35 | 7:35 | 9:35
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Eagles: 60-minute man Chuck Bednarik has died

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Chuck Bednarik, a Pro Football Hall of Famer and one of the last great two-way NFL players, died early Saturday the Eagles said. He was 89.

Bednarik, known as "Concrete Charlie," epitomized the tough-guy linebacker and also was an outstanding center for the Philadelphia Eagles from 1949 to 1962. He is best remembered for a game-saving tackle at the 9-yard line on the final play of the 1960 title game, and it was typical Bednarik. He threw Green Bay running back Jim Taylor to the ground and refused to let him up while the final seconds ticked off as the Eagles held on for a 17-13 win.

"Everybody reminds me of it and I'm happy they remind me of it," Bednarik once said. "I'm proud and delighted to have played in that game."

He died at an assisted living



In this Sept. 12, 2010 file photo, former Philadelphia Eagles football player Chuck Bednarik wears his number 60 jersey as he participates in a ceremony commemorating the 1960 championship in Philadelphia, during halftime of an NFL football game between the Eagles and the Green Bay Packers.

Associated Press

facility in Richland, Pennsylvania, following a brief illness, the Eagles said in a statement.

Bednarik, who frequently criticized modern athletes, said he played on all but two kickoffs against the Packers and could have kept playing if he needed to, unlike today's play-

ers who "suck air after five plays." He missed only three games in his 14-year career.

The tackle on Taylor actually was the second hit that season that drew headlines. Earlier in 1960, he knocked out New York Giants running back Frank Gifford with a blow so hard

that Gifford suffered a concussion and didn't play again until 1962.

An iconic photograph captured Bednarik pumping his fist over Gifford's prone body, though the linebacker insisted he wasn't gloating. He said he didn't notice what happened to Gifford after the hit and only saw that he had fumbled and another Eagle recovered the ball.

Bednarik was the last NFL starter to play regularly on both offense and defense until Deion Sanders did so for Dallas in 1996. Sanders' achievement hardly impressed Bednarik.

"The positions I played, every play, I was making contact, not like that ... Deion Sanders," Bednarik said. "He couldn't tackle my wife. He's back there dancing out there instead of hitting."

Born May 1, 1925, in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, Bednarik flew 30 combat mis-

sions over Germany as a gunner during World War II. He then played center for Penn from 1945 to 1948, and was selected first overall in the 1949 NFL draft by the Eagles.

In 1950, he was All-NFL as a center, then he was voted All-NFL as a linebacker in 1951 through 1957, and again in 1960.

Bednarik, whose gnarled fingers in retirement stood as a reminder of the ruggedness of his profession, said he never made more than \$27,000 in a season and supplemented his income by selling concrete, earning his nickname. At one point, he pawned his championship ring and his Hall of Fame ring.

In early 2005, when the Eagles won the NFC championship and had Philadelphia in a Super Bowl frenzy, Bednarik was bitter enough to root for the Patriots in the Super Bowl. He later apologized to owner Jeff Lurie

and was a welcomed visitor at training camp and other alumni functions.

"Philadelphia fans grow up expecting toughness, all-out effort and a workmanlike attitude from this team and so much of that image has its roots in the way Chuck played the game," Lurie said in a statement released by the team.

The Maxwell Football Club presents an award in Bednarik's honor to the defensive player of the year in college football.

Bednarik is survived by his wife, Emma, and five daughters —Charlene Thomas, Donna Davis, Carol Safarowic, Pam McWilliams, and Jackie Chelius, as well as 10 grandchildren and a great-grandchild. □

Indian Wells

Continued from page 19

"The first set was strange for me because I didn't play for three days. It's really tough to go straight to the finals," said Halep, who hadn't played since Wednesday.

Halep continues her rise in the sport, having broken into the top 10 a year ago and being a finalist at the French Open and semifinalist at Wimbledon last year. The 23-year-old Romanian reached the quarterfinals at the Australian Open in January.

"I have another title, my biggest title now, so it's amazing," she said.

Jankovic won her biggest career title at Indian Wells

in 2010. She was seeking her first tournament victory since 2013 at Bogota, but she couldn't hold a lead. She was up a set and a break in the second only to have Halep win two straight games and tie it 3-all.

Jankovic broke for a 5-4 lead on a smash and then was two points from victory on her serve in the next game, but Halep won the final three games of the set.

"At the end of the second set I got a little bit nervous," Jankovic said. "I got a little bit tentative and that was my big mistake."

Both players struggled to hold serve in the third set, when there were seven breaks. The 2 1/2-hour match had 18 service



Simona Halep, of Romania, embraces the trophy after her win over Jelena Jankovic, of Serbia, in the final match at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament, Sunday, March 22, 2015, in Indian Wells, Calif. Associated Press

breaks in all.

"I don't know how I won today because I didn't play my best," Halep said.

Halep had a trainer work on her feet to start the second set.

At times, she bent over and rested on court.

"I was tired a little bit and I had blisters only, so it's not that bad," she said. "But still it's bothering you during the match, during the running. In the end of the second set I had muscle problems. But I didn't think about anything. I just wanted to fight and to get like to win every ball. Just this was in my mind."

Jankovic committed 61 unforced errors and had nine double-faults, smiling wryly after her last one gave Halep match point. □

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Autonomous car begins 3,500-mile U.S. road trip

DEE-ANN DURBIN

AP Auto Writer

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan

(AP) — Call it a preview of the cross-country road trip of the future.

An autonomous car developed by Michigan-based auto supplier Delphi Automotive began a 3,500-mile journey across the U.S. A person will sit behind the wheel at all times but won't touch it unless there's a situation the car can't handle. The car will mainly stick to highways.

Companies both inside and outside the auto industry are experimenting with technologies that take more and more responsibilities away from the driver — right up to the act of actually driving the car. Most experts say a true driverless vehicle is at least a decade away.

Delphi plans to show off one of several versions of the car — an Audi Q5 crossover outfitted with laser sensors, radar and multiple cameras — on Saturday at the South by Southwest festival in Austin, Texas. The official car will start its journey March 22 in San Francisco and arrive in



This undated photo provided by Delphi shows an Audi Q5 crossover outfitted with laser sensors, radar and multiple cameras.

Associated Press

New York a little more than a week later.

The autonomous Audi warmed up for its long journey by racking up lots of miles tooling around Delphi's Silicon Valley office and taking a drive from San Francisco to Los Angeles. Delphi showed off the car at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas in January where, during a demonstration, the car braked by itself — just like it was supposed to — when two inebriated men fell into the street in front of it.

Delphi executives say driving the car for six to eight hours per day on various roadways and in very differ-

ent weather conditions will give them valuable data that can help improve the technology. Engineers will also be looking for ways to make drivers and passengers more comfortable with the idea of autonomous driving. "We're going to learn a lot out of this," said Jeff Owens, Delphi's chief technology officer.

Delphi officials believe the upcoming road trip is the longest automated drive ever attempted in North America. In 2010, the Italian company VisLab took a driverless van on an 8,000-mile, three-month journey from Europe to Shanghai.

Delphi's autonomous vehi-

cle looks like a regular car, and not a science project. Anyone who looks at driverless cars developed by Google, Honda and others, immediately notices the circular, spinning sensor on top, scanning the surrounding area with lasers, a technology known as lidar. Instead, Delphi tucked six lidar sensors into the car's front, rear and sides. And because lidar sensors don't work well in heavy snow or rain, the car has six radar sensors that can also detect road obstacles. The car also has cameras throughout, including one that watches the driver.

Delphi says the vehicle is capable of making complex decisions, like stopping and then proceeding at a four-way stop, timing a merge onto the highway or maneuvering around a bicyclist or a trash can. When it wants the driver to resume control, it uses a verbal warning and flashes lights on the dashboard.

Owens won't say how much its autonomous prototypes cost, but for now, this technology is prohibitively expensive. Lidar systems can cost upward of

\$70,000 apiece.

Doug Welk, an engineer in the company's automated driving program, said the cross-country drive will help Delphi figure out the best combination of sensors, ultimately helping to lower costs. Delphi estimates it will cost around \$5,000 to make a vehicle almost fully autonomous by 2019.

Owens said Delphi has been working on automated driving since 1999, when it first started putting radar sensors on cars. Now, 2 million cars are outfitted with those sensors, which are used for adaptive cruise control, automatic braking and other features.

Fully autonomous driving could come over the next decade or two, Owens said. Driverless cars are even further away. But in the meantime, Delphi sees autonomous features, like pedestrian detection or vehicle-to-vehicle communication systems, as a way to drastically cut the number of traffic deaths worldwide. "This technology can make a serious impact on those statistics," Owens said. "The car is not distracted, even if the driver is." □

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Fair Game: Ways to Put Boss' Skin In the Game

G. MORGENSON

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Life is not fair, I know, but this is getting ridiculous.

Whenever a big corporation settles an enforcement matter with prosecutors, penalties levied in

open their wallets.

Economists have a name for this sort of thing: It's called a perverse incentive. Essentially, company executives and other major players are encouraged to take outsize risks

gerous actions.

Changing this troubling dynamic won't be easy. But it is the goal of two new proposals worth consideration.

One will be put to a vote of Citigroup shareholders at the bank's annual meeting this year.

The other is outlined in a paper in the Michigan State Journal of Business and Securities Law.

Let's take up the Citigroup proposal first. It would require that top executives at the company contribute a substantial portion of their compensation each year to a pool of money that would be available to pay penalties if legal violations were uncovered at the bank. To ensure that the money would be available for a long enough period - investigations into wrongdoing take years to develop - the proposal would require that the executives keep their pay in the pool for 10 years.

The proposal would also require that Citigroup advise shareholders of forfeitures

that resulted under the program. And the money could be tapped even if the executives contributing to it were not responsible for the wrongdoing.

The man behind this proposal is Bartlett Naylor, financial policy advocate at the Congress Watch division of Public Citizen, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization in Washington.

"Bank managers are paid to keep a bank compliant with the law," Naylor said in an interview last week. "When the bank is not compliant, those managers should be held accountable. Docking their paycheck is one way to do that."

Naylor said he began working on the proposal after the Justice Department announced a \$7 billion settlement in July with Citigroup over mortgage improprieties.

"Citi employees committed these unlawful acts," Naylor wrote in a statement supporting the proposal. "They did not contribute to this penalty payment, but

instead undoubtedly received bonuses."

Citigroup, not surprisingly, asked the Securities and Exchange Commission for permission to exclude the policy from its 2015 shareholder proxy. The SEC said no, and Citi's shareholders will vote on the proposal when they meet on April 28. The proposal is nonbinding; Citigroup need not abide by its terms even if a majority of shareholders favor it. Citi has urged shareholders to reject the proposal, saying that its current policies do the job and that the terms of Naylor's proposal would put the bank at a disadvantage to its peers. But if broad support for the proposal emerges, Citi might throw in the towel.

The proposal has additional heft, Naylor said, because William Dudley, the president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, has publicly suggested a similar approach. In a speech in October, he described the benefits of a performance bond to be issued to bank executives. □



A Citibank sign hangs above a branch office in New York. Whenever a big corporation settles an enforcement matter with prosecutors, penalties levied in the case are usually paid by the company's shareholders. Citigroup shareholders will consider ways to change this dynamic at the bank's annual meeting this year. (AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

the case - and they can be enormous - are usually paid by the company's shareholders. Yet the people who actually did the deeds or oversaw the operations rarely so much as

because they can earn princely amounts from their actions. At the same time, they know that they rarely have to pay any fines or face other costly consequences from taking dan-

Your Money Adviser:

When You Must Take Money Out of Your IRA or 401(K)

ANN CARRNS

© 2015 New York Times

The 15th isn't the only significant tax deadline in April. If you turned 70 1/2 in 2014 and have an individual retirement account, you have until April 1 to make your first withdrawal - known as a "required minimum distribution" or "minimum required distribution," in tax lingo. The rule also generally applies to other tax-deferred retirement accounts, like 401(k)s.

If you don't take out the money by the deadline, you may face a hefty penalty: You will owe an excise tax equal to half the amount that you failed to withdraw. So if you were required to withdraw \$4,000, but you withdrew nothing, you would owe a \$2,000 penalty.

The rule applies to traditional IRAs, as well as the Simplified Employee Pension, Simple and rollover varieties.

The April 1 deadline applies

only for the first required withdrawal; after that, the deadline for annual mandatory withdrawals is Dec. 31 of each year. (That means if you wait until April 1 for your first withdrawal, you will have to make two withdrawals in the same calendar year. That is something to keep in mind, since it may bump you into a higher tax bracket.)

Despite the size of the potential penalty, many people are slow to take out the cash. Fidelity Investments reports that as of Dec. 26, more than half (59 percent) of the company's investors who were eligible to take their first required withdrawal from an IRA in 2014 had not yet taken the full amount required. And, of those, 43 percent had not yet taken any withdrawal at all. (Taking a partial withdrawal reduces, but doesn't eliminate, the penalty).

It may be that people just

like pushing deadlines. But it's also difficult for many to make the psychological shift from putting money into their retirement accounts to taking it out.

"You've been saying, 'This is my nest egg,' and you didn't want to touch it," said Maura Cassidy, director of retirement products at Fidelity. "Now, you have to tap into it."

Some people may not recognize that the federal government, after encouraging them to squirrel money away, now wants them to make withdrawals.

"You cannot keep retirement funds in your account indefinitely," the IRS says in a discussion of retirement topics on its website.

"Basically, the IRS wants to start collecting the taxes," said Kevin O'Reilly, a financial planner in Phoenix.

Since the required amount doesn't have to be taken in a lump sum, O'Reilly suggests that to avoid bump-

ing up against a deadline, you may want to set up partial automatic withdrawals when you become eligible, so you receive smaller amounts periodically throughout the year.

Here are some questions about required retirement account withdrawals:

Q. How do I know how much to withdraw?

A. The minimum distribution is based on your account value and your life expectancy. Each year, the IRS publishes life expectancy tables at the end of IRS Publication 590. Investment companies also have calculators on their websites. Merrill Edge's site has this example: If a traditional IRA is valued at \$87,000 and life expectancy is 22.5 years, you would divide \$87,000 by 22.5 to get \$3,866.67 as your mandatory withdrawal amount.

Q. Can I withdraw more

than the minimum amount required?

A. Yes; you just can't withdraw less.

Q. Does the minimum withdrawal rule apply to Roth IRAs?

A. No. Roths are an exception; there is no withdrawal required during the life of the account holder. Also, you generally don't need to take minimum withdrawals from a workplace 401(k) plan if you are still working.

Q. If I failed to make a required minimum withdrawal, can I seek a waiver?

A. Yes. You can ask the IRS to waive the penalty by submitting an explanatory letter along with Form 5329. You generally should have some sort of reasonable explanation - for example, you or your spouse fell ill, and you were distracted. You should also explain what action you are taking to remedy the problem. □

Flash Point Ferguson



CHARLES M. BLOW
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Ferguson, Missouri, is once again a flash point in this nation's struggle to come to grips with itself, as its citizens are embroiled in a profound conversation about bias, policing, the criminal justice system, civil rights and social justice.

The Justice Department has released its scathing report documenting widespread racial targeting of citizens with fine and tickets. The city manager, the police chief and a judge cited in the report have stepped down. Cases will now be adjudicated outside the corrupt system described in the report. According to an article last week in The New York Times: "The Missouri Supreme Court, citing the need for 'extraordinary action' to restore trust in Ferguson's court system after the Department of Justice blasted it for routinely violating constitutional rights, assigned a state appeals court judge on Monday to oversee all municipal cases."

But unfortunately, two police officers have also been shot in Ferguson. (The officers were treated at a hospital and released.)

All of it has caused the nation's attention to once again turn to this small town and the sustained protests there.

Sometimes we understandably want justice to come quickly - but justice, if it is to be permanent, often inches forward. For those in the grip of injustice, toiling in the shadow of oppression, the wait can be nearly unbearable. But that hasn't necessarily happened in this case. It could be argued that the protest movement born in Ferguson in the wake of the killing of Michael Brown by Darren Wilson - a movement that quickly expanded from a focus on a single case to a sprawling indictment of the system - has been one of the most successful in recent history, both in terms of the speed at which it has garnered results and the breadth of those results.

And yet, that progress has been tarnished by flashes of violence.

That doesn't have to be the case. There is a moral continuity that bridges and binds all people of good conscience.

There is universal condemnation of predation. No one should ever be targeted for harm. No cause can turn wrong to right. Violence can never be liberated from its inherent ab-

horrence.

As the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wrote in the 1967 book "Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?": "The ultimate weakness of violence is that it is a descending spiral, begetting the very thing it seeks to destroy. Instead of diminishing evil, it multiplies it." King continued, "Returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness: Only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: Only love can do that."

Violence is weakness masquerading as strength. It is a crude statement of depravity voiced by the unethical and impolitic. It reduces humanity rather than lifts it.

The violent must find no asylum in the assembly of the righteous. We can and must stand up to injustice and against vigilante justice simultaneously.

(Authorities announced Sunday that an arrest had been made in the shootings. The prosecutor insisted the suspect had been a "demonstrator" - a fact that protest leaders denied - although the prosecutor did acknowledge that the shooter said he had a dispute with people in front of the police department "which had nothing to do with the demonstrations that were going on.")

To those peaceful protesters who eschew violence as much as the rest of us, we must say: Hold tight. Be encouraged, steadfast and unmovable. We know the fatigue that builds from feeling that one must always fight. But your efforts are not in vain.

This is your moment. History has heard you, and justice is coming to meet you.

And we can do as a nation what those protesters have shown us can be done. We can elevate dialogue so that racial realities - both interpersonal and structural - can be acknowledged and remedies developed and implemented. We can register indignation while preserving civility.

On "Jimmy Kimmel Live," President Barack Obama put it this way: "What had been happening in Ferguson was oppressive and objectionable and was worthy of protest. But there was no excuse for criminal acts. And whoever fired those shots shouldn't detract from the issue - they're criminals. They need to be arrested. And then what we need to do is to make sure that like-minded, good-spirited people on both sides - law enforcement who have a terrifically tough job and people who understandably don't want to be stopped and harassed just because of their race - that we're able to work together to try to come up with some good answers." We can honor the lives of police officers - and applaud them when proper service is rendered - and at the same time marvel at the persistence and efficacy of the protesters who have gotten the nation's attention and gotten results. □



Netanyahu and Israel's Gilded Age



PAUL KRUGMAN
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Why did Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel feel the need to wag the dog in Washington? For that was, of course, what he was doing in his anti-Iran speech to Congress. If you're seriously trying to affect U.S. foreign policy, you don't insult the president and so obviously align yourself with his political opposition. No, the real purpose of that speech was to distract the Israeli electorate with saber-rattling bombast, to shift its attention away from the economic discontent that, polls suggested, could have booted Netanyahu from office in last week's election.

But wait: Why are Israelis discontented? After all, Israel's economy has performed well by the usual measures. It weathered the financial crisis with minimal damage. Over the longer term, it has grown more rapidly than most other advanced economies and has developed into a high-technology powerhouse. What is there to complain about?

The answer, which I don't think is widely appreciated here, is that while Israel's economy has grown, this growth has been accompanied by a disturbing transformation in the country's income distribution and society. Once upon a time, Israel was a country of egalitarian ideals - the kibbutz population was always a small minority, but it had a large impact on the nation's self-perception. And it

was a fairly equal society in reality, too, right up to the early 1990s.

Since then, however, Israel has experienced a dramatic widening of income disparities. Key measures of inequality have soared; Israel is now right up there with America as one of the most unequal societies in the advanced world. And Israel's experience shows that this matters, that extreme inequality has a corrosive effect on social and political life.

Consider what has happened at either end of the spectrum - the growth in poverty, on one side, and extreme wealth, on the other.

According to Luxembourg Income Study data, the share of Israel's population living on less than half the country's median income - a widely accepted definition of relative poverty - more than doubled, to 20.5 percent from 10.2 percent, between 1992 and 2010. The share of children in poverty almost quadrupled, to 27.4 percent from 7.8 percent. Both numbers are the worst in the advanced world, by a large margin.

And when it comes to children, in particular, relative poverty is the right concept. Families that live on much lower incomes than those of their fellow citizens will, in important ways, be alienated from the society around them, unable to participate fully in the life of the nation. Children growing up in such families will surely be placed at a permanent disadvantage.

At the other end, while the available data - puzzlingly - don't show an especially large share of income going to the top 1 percent, there is an extreme concentration of wealth and power among a tiny group of people at the top. And I mean tiny. According to the Bank of Israel, roughly 20 families control companies that account for half the total value

of Israel's stock market. The nature of that control is convoluted and obscure, working through "pyramids" in which a family controls a firm that in turn controls other firms and so on. Although the Bank of Israel is circumspect in its language, it is clearly worried about the potential this concentration of control creates for self-dealing. Still, why is Israeli inequality a political issue? Because it didn't have to be this extreme.

You might think that Israeli inequality is a natural outcome of a high-tech economy that generates strong demand for skilled labor - or, perhaps, reflects the importance of minority populations with low incomes, namely Arabs and ultrareligious Jews. It turns out, however, that those high poverty rates largely reflect policy choices: Israel does less to lift people out of poverty than any other advanced country - yes, even less than the United States.

Meanwhile, Israel's oligarchs owe their position not to innovation and entrepreneurship but to their families' success in gaining control of businesses that the government privatized in the 1980s - and they arguably retain that position partly by having undue influence over government policy, combined with control of major banks.

In short, the political economy of the promised land is now characterized by harshness at the bottom and at least soft corruption at the top. And many Israelis see Netanyahu as part of the problem. He's an advocate of free-market policies; he has a Chris Christie-like penchant for living large at taxpayers' expense, while clumsily pretending otherwise.

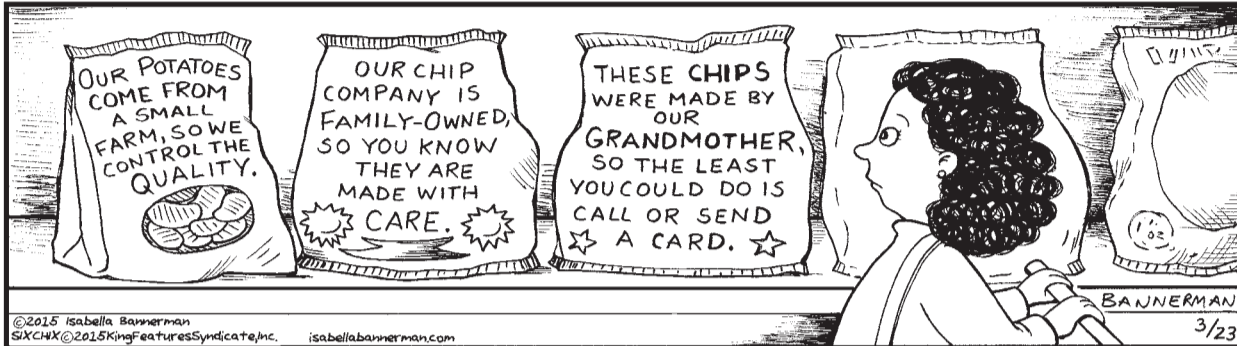
So Netanyahu tried to change the subject from internal inequality to external threats, a tactic those who remember the Bush years should find completely familiar.

And he was successful. □

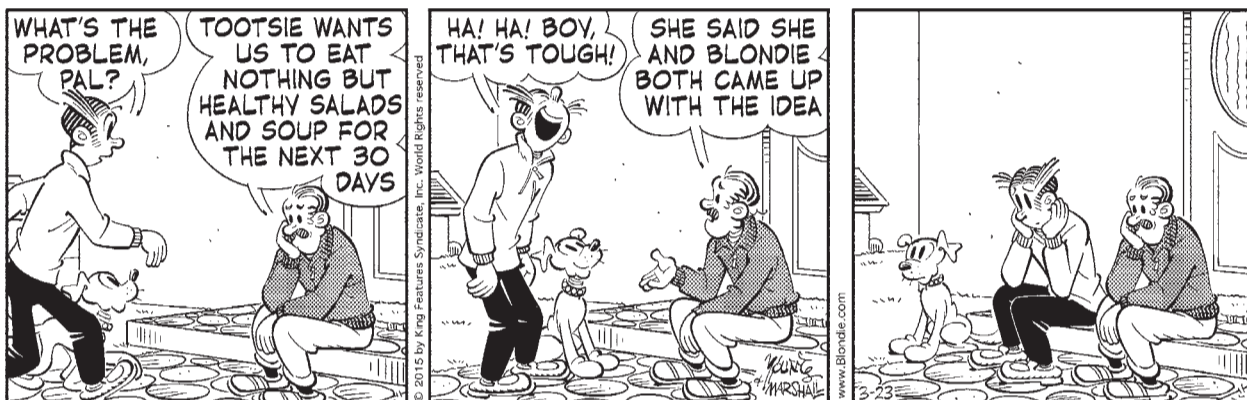
Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



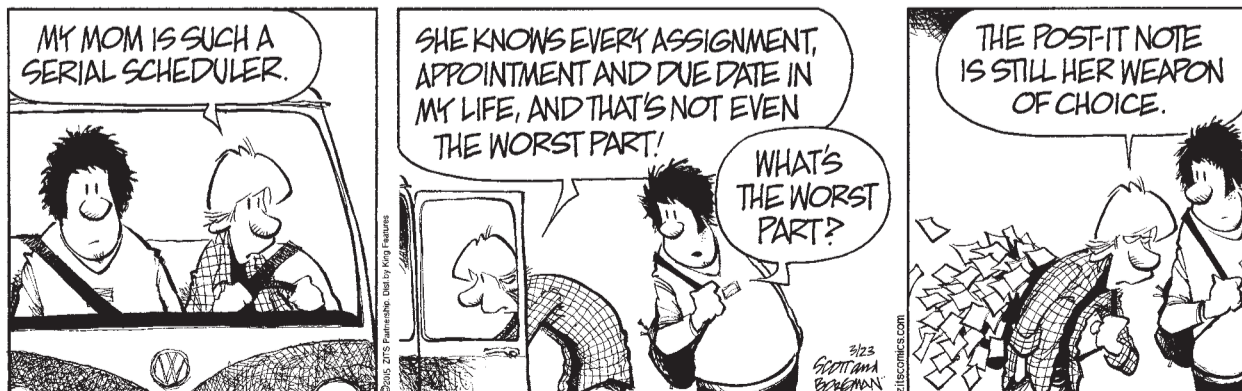
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Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

5			6	3				7
			4		7	6		
	7	6				1		
	5			1			2	8
7			2		4			3
3	8			6			9	
		8				3	7	
		7	5		9			
2				7	8			4

Difficulty Level ★

3/23

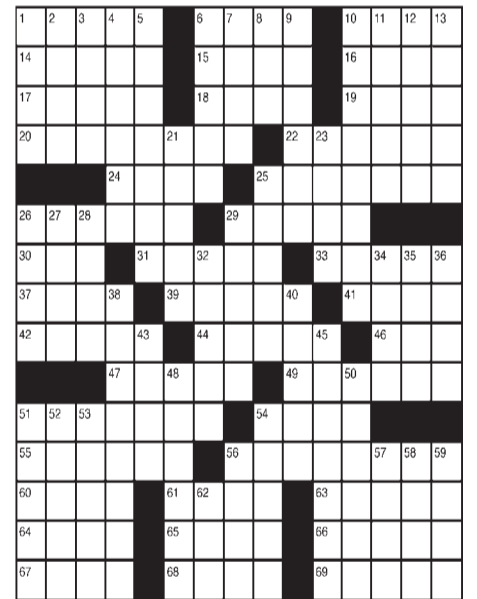
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

1	5	8	3	6	7	9	4	2
4	7	2	9	5	1	3	6	8
6	9	3	8	4	2	1	7	5
8	6	7	4	1	9	2	5	3
3	4	9	5	2	8	6	1	7
2	1	5	6	7	3	8	9	4
9	8	4	1	3	5	7	2	6
7	3	6	2	9	4	5	8	1
5	2	1	7	8	6	4	3	9

ACROSS

- Our planet
- in; wearing
- MRI, for one
- Luau greeting
- Lasso
- Lunch spot
- into; eats greedily
- Goes astray
- Ceremony
- Scoured
- Trimmed, as tree branches
- Official stamp
- Gary & Jackie
- Leah's sister, in Genesis
- Cold cereal
- "...through the night that flag was still..."
- Approaches
- Good buys
- Ensnare
- Tries to lose
- Small store
- Long tales
- High-powered surgical beam
- 1/4 and 3/4
- Planted
- Squandered
- Hot dog condiment
- Bride's headwear
- Whole
- Building at an airport
- Actor Sandler
- for; empathize with
- Escape detection by
- Racing sled
- Sightseeing trip
- Computer geeks, often
- Observes
- Sty residents
- Lovers' meeting



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

3/23/15

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

OTTO	SCANT	SHUN
NEED	TABOO	HERO
CARD	OREGON	IAN'S
ERR	TROD	ANTS
	ALIMB	AVE
OSCAR	ALERT	S
PHONE	BAGEL	RED
TOTE	BATES	DINE
SAT	WAGES	HOUSE
	LABELS	SUMMED
	OLD	SHEEP
SILOS	SPAS	HUB
ARITHMETIC		SAFE
COME	PLANK	KNOT
KNEE	HIRES	ITSA

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3/23/15

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 40 Septic tank alternative | 52 Excessive |
| 43 Zoom skyward | 53 Theater part |
| 45 Clothing | 54 Swerves |
| 48 Yuletide door decoration | 56 Hoodlum |
| 50 Dieter's piece of pie | 57 a soul; nobody |
| 51 Lunch & dinner | 58 up; tallies |
| | 59 In case |
| | 62 Pigeon's cry |

DOWN

- Sups
- Actor Baldwin
- Laugh loudly
- Songbird

Starbucks baristas stop writing "Race Together" on cups

CANDICE CHOI
TOM KRISHER
Associated Press

Starbucks baristas will no longer write "Race Together" on customers' cups starting Sunday, ending a visible component of the company's diversity and racial inequality campaign that had sparked widespread criticism in the week since it took effect. The coffee chain's initiative will continue more broadly without the handwritten messages, Starbucks spokesman Jim Olson said. The cups were always "just the catalyst" for a larger conversation and Starbucks will still hold forum discussions, co-produce special sections in USA TODAY and put more stores in minority communities as part of the Race Together initiative, according to a company memo from CEO Howard Schultz said.

The campaign has been criticized as opportunistic and inappropriate, coming in the wake of racially charged events such as national protests over police killings of black males. Others questioned whether Starbucks workers could spark productive conversations about race while serving drinks.

The phase-out is not a reaction to that pushback, Olson said. "Nothing is changing. It's all part of the cadence of the timeline we originally planned." He echoed the company memo, saying of the Race Together initiative, "We're leaning into it hard."

Schultz's note acknowledged the skeptics as an anticipated part of the outreach.

"While there has been criticism of the initiative — and I know this hasn't been easy for any of you — let me assure you that we didn't expect universal praise," it read.

He said the campaign at its core aims to make sure that "the promise of the American Dream should be available to every person in this country, not just a select few." □

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U.S. agency: Keep threatened status for green sea turtles

By **AUDREY McAVOY**

Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) - Hawaii's green sea turtles should continue to be classified as threatened because its population is small and nearly all of them nest at the same low-lying atoll, federal wildlife agencies said Friday.

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs petitioned the government in 2012 to study whether Hawaii's green sea turtles might have recovered to the point where they no longer need Endangered Species Act protections.

But Patrick Opay, the endangered species branch chief of NOAA's Fisheries Pacific Islands Regional Office, said Hawaii has fewer than 4,000 nesting green sea turtles, and 96 percent of them nest at French Frigate Shoals in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

This makes them vulnerable to outbreaks of disease, rising sea levels and other threats, Opay said. "You have all of your eggs in one basket, so to speak," he said. Green sea turtles nest on beaches and feed



In this Dec. 13, 2005 file photo, a green sea turtle is shown on Eastern Island in the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge located in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

Associated Press

in the ocean, eating mostly seagrass and algae. Adult females return to the same beaches where they were born every two to four years to lay eggs, sometimes migrating hundreds or thousands of miles.

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs said at the time of its petition that delisting Hawaii's turtles would

return management of the animals to the state and allow more people in the islands to take an active role in taking care of them.

The association cited 2007 data showing Hawaii's population of green sea turtles had been growing at an annual rate of 5.7 percent for three decades. The latest review showed a

4.8 percent annual growth rate.

Annelle Amaral, the association's president, said the group is disappointed the agencies aren't proposing to delist the population. She said people who fish, harvest seaweed and otherwise rely on the ocean to feed their families tell her number of turtles has grown

so much the animals are moving inland - to places like the Hanalei River - to forage for food. She's heard some areas are overpopulated with turtles, known as honu in Hawaiian.

NOAA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service studied green sea turtle populations around the world as part of the review. The research prompted them to propose designating 11 distinct populations of the animals, including one in Hawaii.

They found separate populations of turtles in Florida and Mexico have recovered to the point that they proposed categorizing them as threatened instead of endangered.

But the agencies believe turtles in American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands, which were considered threatened before, should now be classified as endangered.

The agencies will be accepting public comment on their proposals for the next three months. They are scheduled to host a public hearing in Honolulu on April 8. □

UN warns world could have 40 percent water shortfall by 2030

By **KATY DAIGLE**

AP Environment Writer

NEW DELHI (AP) -- The world could suffer a 40 percent shortfall in water in just 15 years unless countries dramatically change their use of the resource, a U.N. report warned Friday.

Many underground water reserves are already running low, while rainfall patterns are predicted to become more erratic with climate change. As the world's population grows to an expected 9 billion by 2050, more groundwater will be needed for farming,

industry and personal consumption.

The report predicts global water demand will increase 55 percent by 2050, while reserves dwindle. If current usage trends don't change, the world will have only 60 percent of the water it needs in 2030, it said. Having less available water risks catastrophe on many fronts: crops could fail, ecosystems could break down, industries could collapse, disease and poverty could worsen, and violent conflicts over access to water could become more frequent.

"Unless the balance between demand and finite supplies is restored, the world will face an increasingly severe global water deficit," the annual World Water Development Report said, noting that more efficient use could guarantee enough supply in the future. The report, released in New Delhi two days before World Water Day, calls on policymakers and communities to rethink water policies, urging more conservation as well as recycling of wastewater as is done in

Singapore. Countries may also want to consider raising prices for water, as well as searching for ways to make water-intensive sectors more efficient and less polluting, it said. In many countries including India, water use is largely unregulated and often wasteful. Pollution of water is often ignored and unpunished. At least 80 percent of India's population relies on groundwater for drinking to avoid bacteria-infested surface waters. In agriculture-intensive India, where studies show some aquifers are being depleted at the world's fastest rates, the shortfall has been forecast at 50 percent or even higher. Climate change is expected to make the situation worse, as higher temperatures and more erratic weather patterns could disrupt rainfall.

Currently, about 748 million people worldwide have poor access to clean drinking water, the report said, cautioning that economic growth alone is not the solution - and could make the situation worse unless reforms ensure more efficiency and less pollution. □

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Q&A: John Legend on race, Common, Sam Smith, 'Blurred Lines'

MESFIN FEKADU

AP Music Writer

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — John Legend says he's concerned that the "Blurred Lines" verdict could set a scary precedent for artists creating music inspired by others.

In a wide-ranging interview with The Associated Press, the Grammy winner said understands why people say 2013's biggest hit song by Pharrell Williams and Robin Thicke sounds like "Got to Give It Up," Marvin Gaye's 1977 hit, adding: "I said that when I first heard it, too."

But he said he doesn't agree with the jury that determined the performers copied elements of Gaye's work.

"You have to be careful when it comes to copyrights, whether just sounding like or feeling like something is enough to say you violated their copyrights," the singer-songwriter told The Associated Press on



John Legend performs at the AXE White Label Collective Party during the SXSW Music Festival on Saturday, March 21, 2015 in Austin, Texas.

Saturday before performing at the South by Southwest music festival. "Because there's a lot of music out there, and there's a lot of things that feel like other things that are influenced by other things. And you don't want to get into that thing where all of us are su-

ing each other all the time because this and that song feels like another song." Here are some highlights from the interview:

AP: Are you working on a new album?

Legend: A week from Monday I'll start. I'm going on

vacation next week because I need it (laughs) and then I'll really jump in the studio to start writing again.

AP: "All of Me" was such a huge hit. Is there any pressure as you head into the next album?

Legend: The pressure I put

on myself isn't, 'I have to make another 'All of Me.' It's just I have to write great songs. I want to make a better record than I made the last time. I want to grow. I want to discover new things about myself creatively.

AP: You and Common won an Oscar for "Glory" from (the movie) "Selma." Where did you put it?

Legend: It's sitting on my piano in New York at our apartment there.

AP: What was it like working with Sam Smith on the charity single "Lay Me Down"?

Legend: It was great. I love Sam. I think he's one of the most talented new artists out right now, and our voices work really well together. And we both love soul music and wanted to make a really powerful song together, and we were able to do that — and do it for a great cause. And I'm excited for all the traction the song has gotten; it hit No. 1, my first No. 1 in the U.K. □

Associated Press

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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers

Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the RIO Hotel, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 10 am to 4 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort and at well-known cigar stores. For their complete selection and attractive by the box prices visit their retail store. Tours are also

available at their Tobacco farm where their cigars are grown and rolled. Winner of the best of Aruba. The best local product. Cigars in Tubes Arubian design.

For a group or private tour, call 586-7833 / 593-6177 or send them an email at aruhibacigars@gmail.com www.aruhibacigars.com



Owner Benjamin Petrocchi

'Insurgent' seizes top spot; 'The Gunman' misfires

LINDSEY BAHR

AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Sean Penn's "The Gunman" was no match for the rebel kids of "Insurgent."

The second installment in the "Divergent" series easily topped the box office with \$54 million from 3,875 theaters, according to Rentrak estimates Sunday. Penn's geopolitical thriller stumbled with only \$5 million.

While the second films in both the "Hunger Games" and the "Twilight" series boasted opening weekend gains over the first, "Insurgent's" opening nearly matches that of its predecessor, "Divergent," which debuted to \$54.6 million just last year.

Many predicted a bit of growth for this second film, which sees the return of stars Shailene Woodley, Theo James, and Kate Winslet to author Veronica Roth's dystopian world. But, both distributor Lionsgate and box office analysts see the consistency as a good thing.

"We're extremely pleased with the outcome," said Lionsgate's President of Domestic Distribution Richie Fay.

"I think this is exactly where we thought we'd be," he added. "We attracted a few more males this time around, and I think we're



In this image released by Lionsgate, Theo James, left, and Shailene Woodley appear in a scene from the film, "The Divergent Series: Insurgent."

headed in the right direction. The uptick from Friday to Saturday was considerably higher than it was for 'Divergent.' That, the A-CinemaScore and what's coming into the marketplace will allow us to grow very nicely."

According to Lionsgate, 60 percent of audiences were female.

Rentrak's Senior Media Analyst Paul Dergarabedian credits Lionsgate's consistent release date strategy and impressive marketing campaign for the strong repeat performance.

"It's really about driving a very fickle audience, that

teen, YA — whatever you want to call them — they're really tough to get a handle on. Their tastes change like the wind," he said. "The key is keeping the young adult audience engaged, excited and enthusiastic."

"Insurgent" also performed well overseas, taking in \$47 million from 76 markets, bringing its worldwide total to \$101 million.

Disney's live-action "Cinderella," meanwhile, fell 49 percent in Week 2 to take second place with \$34.5 million. The PG-rated film has earned an impressive \$122 million domestically to date.

Also in its second weekend in theaters, the R-rated Liam Neeson-led action film "Run All Night," managed a slight edge over Open Road's "The Gunman." Neeson's film, a Warner Bros. release, dropped 54 percent with its \$5.1 million weekend, while Penn's film debuted in fourth place with only \$5

million.

"You have a lot of R-rated competition out there right now," noted Dergarabedian, who also added that Penn's foray into the action genre has not garnered the best reviews.

"Kingsman: The Secret Service," one of the better performing R-rated releases in recent weeks, rounded out the top five with \$4.6 million in its sixth weekend in theaters. The 20th Century Fox film has now earned over \$114.6 million domestically.

"Over the past couple of weeks, films driven by the female audience have done much better than films driven by the male audience. But that's all going to change because 'Furious 7' is on the way," said Dergarabedian.

"Put on your seatbelt and get ready, because it's going to be an incredible ride in the coming weeks," he said.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Rentrak. □

Associated Press

Barry Manilow giving piano to NY school district

UNIONDALE, New York (AP) — Barry Manilow is giving a piano to a New York school district and he's urging others to donate musical instruments for schoolchildren to play. Newsday reports that the 71-year-old Manilow is donating a piano to the Uniondale school district on Long Island. The crooner is performing at the Nassau Coliseum in Uniondale on Friday. He's giving two concert tickets to anyone who makes a donation of a new or gently used instrument.

Manilow says music is "a vital part of a child's education." Uniondale Superintendent William Lloyd says he hopes Manilow's gift will encourage more donations and help students "build character to achieve success."

The donation is part of the singer's Manilow Music Project. Manilow says he started the project to help public schools with depleted music programs. □

Country star Jason Aldean marries Brittany Kerr

NEW YORK (AP) — Country star Jason Aldean has married former "American Idol" contestant Brittany Kerr. A representative for the singer confirmed that the pair tied the knot Saturday in Mexico. They announced their engagement in September.

The 38-year-old Aldean is one of the top-selling acts in country music.

He filed for divorce from his wife, Jessica, in 2013. They have two daughters, Keeley and Kendyl.

Us Weekly first reported the marriage. □



In this Nov. 5, 2014 file photo, Jason Aldean, left, and Brittany Kerr arrive at the 48th annual CMA Awards at the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tenn.

Associated Press



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